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urine-absorbent pad **40** stays in position. It is important that the adhesive force of the third adhesive layer **45**, when applied to the inner layer **2**, is weaker than that of the second adhesive layers **43** applied to the covering sheet **44**. This embodiment aids in preventing inadvertent removal of the covering sheet **44** from the backing layer **41** when the urine-absorbent pad **40** is removed from the disposable diaper **1**.

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On Page 16, delete the last paragraph and insert the following paragraph:

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As used herein, "comprises" and all its grammatical forms specifies the presence of stated features, integers, steps or components, but does not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, components or groups thereof.

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to § 1.121):

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19. (Amended) The absorbent article of Claim 23, wherein the covering sheet comprises a third adhesive means which exhibits an adhesive force to another absorbent article when the absorbent article is applied to the other absorbent article, without removing the covering sheet, wherein the adhesive force of the third adhesive means to another absorbent article is weaker than the adhesive force of the second adhesive means to the

covering sheet.

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20. (Amended) The absorbent article of Claim 25, wherein the covering sheet comprises a third adhesive means which exhibits an adhesive force to the other absorbent article when the absorbent article is applied to the other absorbent article without removing the covering sheet, wherein the adhesive force of the third adhesive means to the other absorbent article is weaker than the adhesive force of the second adhesive means to the covering sheet.

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